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2012

A National Academy of Sciences Nuclear Security Dialogue with China

Center on Contemporary Conflict

Monterey, California. Naval Postgraduate School

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The Center on Contemporary Conflict has a respected track record for providing research and timely analysis on a variety of topics to leading decision makers in the U.S. national security community. Located in the Naval Postgraduate School, the CCC is the research wing of the Department of National Security Affairs.

The CCC's **Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for Countering WMD** is a program planning and implementation office, research center, and intellectual clearinghouse for the execution of future-oriented studies and dialogues for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Research in Progress describes ongoing PASC research. For more information, please contact ccc@nps.edu.



A National Academy of Sciences Nuclear Security Dialogue with China

Performer: National Academy of Sciences, Committee
on International Security and Arms Control (CISAC)

Project Lead: Micah D. Lowenthal

Project Cost: \$250,000

Fiscal Year(s): 2012-2013

Demand:

China is both a strategic partner and potential adversary of the United States. While many dialogues between the two countries can suffer from the perennial disruptions of Sino-U.S. ties, previous National Academy of Sciences dialogues have not. This is due to their technical focus and non-governmental nature. Keeping the lines of communication open in this way gives U.S. policymakers an informal link to China's technical community of nuclear-weapon laboratories that advise Beijing.

Objective:

The project aims to hold Track II dialogue meetings between a National Academy of Sciences group and a counterpart group in China, on technical aspects of security issues, particularly nuclear security. The meetings among technical, military, and policy experts address arms control problems from a technical perspective and identify the most promising opportunities for collaboration through official channels.

Approach:

The products of the dialogue are the ideas and perspectives shared with the countries' respective governments through briefings. This year's dialogue will examine technical aspects of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, nuclear terrorism, technical issues related to interdicted nuclear material, the P5 nuclear security glossary effort, and regional security and nonproliferation in South Asia and the Korean Peninsula.

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